

Claims 15-23 are pending. Claims 15-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Claim 23 has now been amended into independent form. It is respectfully submitted that the scope of the claims has not been changed and that the amendment to claim 23, in itself, should not necessitate further consideration or a new search.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Sakane describes a washing machine having a speed control means for rotating the drum with a specific rotational speed variation pattern having predetermined rotational speeds. *See*, column 1, lines 50-68 and column 1, line 59, to column 2, line 7, and Fig. 3. Predetermined rotational speeds n_a , n_b shown in Fig. 3 are determined experimentally. *See*, column 5, lines 35-50. The speed control means maintains a predetermined rotational speed variation pattern by controlling the brushless motor so it is supplied with a pulse voltage with a duty ratio corresponding to the volume of the clothes. *See*, Sakane, column 2, lines 35-41. Thus, Sakane describes maintaining the predetermined rotational speed variation pattern by setting the motor voltage or frequency based on the volume of the clothes.

Contrary to the assertion of the Office Action, Sakane does not teach setting the required speed profile “as a function of the determined load” (Detailed Action, page 3, lines 11-12). In contrast, Sakane merely describes setting the voltage or frequency supplied to the motor based on the volume of clothes so as to maintain the predetermined rotational speed variation pattern. *See*,

Sakane column 1, lines 56-68 and column 2, lines 37-41. The speed variation pattern, including speed values n_a , n_b , is determined experimentally, so that an effective washing is carried out, and not as a function of any load parameter. Thus, Sakane does not disclose “setting an upper and a lower limit of a rotational speed of a drum of the laundry treatment machine as a function of the load parameter,” as recited in claim 15. Because Sakane fails to disclose the above mentioned features of claim 15, it cannot anticipate claim 1 or any of its dependent claims 16-22.

Further with specific regard to dependent claim 18, the claim recites “setting the respective rotational speeds of the washing cycle so as to yield a rotational speed versus time profile of substantially trapezoidal configuration.” It is respectfully submitted that Sakane does not disclose this feature. In contrast, the rotational speed patterns of Sakane are various polygons or curves, but not substantially trapezoidal, as recited in claim 18. *See*, Sakane, Figs. 3 and 5. For this additional reason, it is respectfully submitted that Sakane cannot anticipate claim 18.

Claim 23 has now been amended into independent form by including all of the features of independent claim 15. Thus, Sakane cannot anticipate claim 23 for at least the same reasons as claim 15. Further, claim 23 recites that “the load parameter is a function of a weight of the laundry disposed in the laundry treatment machine.” It is respectfully submitted that this feature is not disclosed by Sakane. Nowhere does Sakane describe detecting a weight of laundry disposed in a laundry treatment device, or setting speed limits as a function of the detected weight. Because Sakane fails to disclose the above mentioned features of claim 23, it cannot anticipate claim 23 for this additional reason.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 15-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is respectfully requested.

Application No. 10/672,783
Amendment dated November 8, 2007
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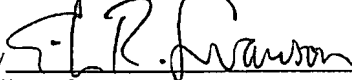
Docket No.: 20794/0205573-US0

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
Erik R. Swanson

Registration No.: 40,833
DARBY & DARBY P.C.
P.O. Box 770
Church Street Station
New York, New York 10008-0770
(212) 527-7700
(212) 527-7701 (Fax)
Attorneys/Agents For Applicant